

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

and other sons, wouldst procure some *viaticum* for me, with which, by God's aid, I may be able to come back to you ; for I have spent both what I had and what I have not yet got, and have incurred debts, which I do not think I can satisfy without a large sum of money. So do anything you can to help me, for, as I deem, you will accomplish a useful act of charity and one pleasing to God. For, on account of the long illness which has detained me, I shall need many things, if God lets me return to you, which I did not need when I came to these parts. Nevertheless, I commit all to the eternal providence of our Saviour, in whom I desire with my whole heart that thou and the family committed to thee may fare ever better."¹ He died at Nuremberg, on October 5, 1399> leaving a memory of much sweet charity and personal holiness. But the Acts of the chapter held in that city in 1405, under his successor, Tommaso da Fermo, show unmistakably that his work as a reformer had been ineffectual. After the schism had been ended, Fra Leonardo da Firenze, in his encyclical letter of 1421, paints a deplorable picture of the corruption in the Dominican order : *in nosfro ordine, ubi, proh dolor, nullus est ordo.*²

In Raimondo's last letter to Giovanni Dominici, he mentions the zeal for the reform of the order that is being shown in Pisa by Suor Chiara de' Gambacorti. This is the daughter of Messer Piero Gambacorti, Monna Tora, whom we have met among Catherine's correspondents, and who had at length become a Dominican nun. In October, 1392, the rule of the Gambacorti had been overthrown in Pisa, by a conspiracy organized by Jacopo d' Appiano, Piero's secretary ; Messer Piero himself and two of his sons, Benedetto and Lorenzo (Tora's half-brothers), were brutally murdered ; and it is said that Tora, in order to preserve the *clausura*, refused to give shelter to Lorenzo, when wounded and flying from his enemies. More edifying than this appalling example of " detachment" is it to read that, when a

¹ Letter of December 18, 1398, in Fra Tommaso Caffarmi, *op. eit.*, pp. 231-233.

² *Monumnta O. F. P. Aistorica*, torn. via. pp. 112-133, 16z-